



**PAROLEE SERVICES NETWORK
REGIONAL MEETING
Kern County Mental Health
3300 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield
April 8, 2009**

PRESENT:

Rashid Frye – WestCare
Ramona Elizondo – KCMH Gate Team
Oscar Acosta – WestCare
Rodney Armstrong – Parole
Janis Cariveau – College Community Services
Lily Alvarez – KCMH SA Admin

Felicia Skaggs – KCMH Gate Team
Chris Willis – WestCare
Kurt Klemencic – ADP
Carol Cole – KCMH SA Admin
Terrance Jackson – ADP
Cindy Coe – KCMH SA Admin

SUMMARY MINUTES:

1. **Introductions:** Accomplished.
2. **Approval of January 14, 2009 meeting minutes:** Motions to approve minutes by Acosta / Frye to approve as submitted; approved all ayes.
3. **Follow-up items:**
 - A. Page 1, Item 3 A: *Under-utilization of slots in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest.* Ms. Alvarez reported that there had been discussion about shifting more funds to WestCare so the funding may be used, however, there also seems to be under-utilization of WestCare residential slots. Mr. Acosta reported their capacity is 4, and they average 2 per month (January 3 admissions, February 2 admissions, March 2 admissions, and so far 2 for April). Ms. Elizondo reported that there are not that many PSN client referrals, and more than 50% of the time they do not show. Ms. Cariveau reported since the previous agent assigned to their area retired, referrals dropped to almost nothing. There are 5 slots each available in Lake Isabella and Ridgecrest. Mr. Armstrong responded that the Lake Isabella area was split between two agents; Ms. Cariveau offered to make contact with the agents to introduce their agency and services. Mr. Willis also reported there was 1 PSN client in Level 4, with 9 slots available.

Mr. Armstrong excused himself to make contact with assigned agents, then relayed one agent is doing some referrals but does not have that many, as there are only 15 parolees. The other agent has 40 parolees, but could not be immediately reached.



Ms. Alvarez questioned whether Mr. Armstrong would be agreeable to a prompt from Ms. Elizondo when PSN referrals are needed; Mr. Armstrong suggested the unit supervisor be e-mailed.

Members discussed eligibility for PSN and the funding hierarchy created by ADP.

- B. Page 1, Item 3 B: *Regional administrators meeting*. Mr. Klemencic reported because of travel restrictions and the state budget there has been no movement to plan a face-to-face meeting. They are now considering an option that would use Web-X software and will keep administrators advised of progress.
- C. Page 2, Item 3 D: *Problems experienced with the PSN, CDCR, and CalOMS databases*. Ms. Cole and Ms. Skaggs submitted information to Mr. Klemencic. Mr. Klemencic reported that ADP staff are still trying to figure out what to do to fix the problems, as it is not specific to Kern County. Ms. Alvarez reported that the monthly and quarterly PSN reports are being submitted electronically, not to the CDCR database. Ms. Cole reported CalOMS did not accept April through October 2008 data due to its failure to recognize our PSN providers. In order to submit the data, the PSN flag was removed; therefore the figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 will not accurately reflect the PSN population Kern County served. Ms. Alvarez confirmed that what is being sent paper/pencil and what is in CalOMS will not reconcile.

Mr. Klemencic questioned how the problem of different data could be fixed, how many PSN clients it involves, and whether we could go back and fix the data now. Ms. Cole responded the CalOMS data is correct after October 2008. It may be possible that the files identifying those PSN clients still exists; Mr. Klemencic asked that if it is available it be sent to him so he could attempt to get them changed in the system. It is not known how many records are affected.

NOTE: On April 9th, Ms. Cole was able to send the information to Mr. Klemencic. There were 53 WestCare clients total, 50 in outpatient and 3 in residential.

- D. Page 2, Item 7 A: *WestCare asked that CDCR be made aware that parole agents typically re-incarcerate a client for one dirty test, and would also like agents to be more involved in getting clients to group*. Mr. Armstrong reported that parolees are not re-incarcerated for one dirty test unless it is a mandatory referral; such a practice would involve a vast number of parolees. Mr. Willis asked that agents be asked to encourage clients to attend and be more involved in group, as their prompting would carry weight; Mr. Armstrong agreed. Mr. Willis reported that he had personal experience in which an agent was not amenable to staff recommendations to keep a client in treatment after a dirty test.

4. State ADP Issues:

- A. Mr. Klemencic reported that CDCR had asked for a weekly head count of PSN clients, by gender and modality of outpatient or residential. A report form is being created and will be included as a requirement in the next Interagency Agreement. The report form will be e-mailed to Ms. Cole to begin submitting the information.
- B. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether Kern County would be offering funds for reallocation to other counties, or whether funds could be reallocated within Kern. Ms. Alvarez responded the funds would be reallocated to providers as a first priority, and will submit a revised Work Plan if needed. Mr. Klemencic clarified that if funds are reallocated to other counties it would be a one-time event and would not change next year's allocation.
- C. Mr. Klemencic questioned whether parole agents have a problem with outpatient slots or is residential the preferred; if so, could some of the outpatient slots be converted to residential beds. Ms. Alvarez explained that outlying areas do not have residential beds available and are sent to metro Bakersfield for 45 days, along with 90 days of intensive outpatient housing. Ms. Alvarez added that about 15% of parolees screen for Level 5 residential placement. Mr. Armstrong reported that agents let the gatekeeper decide placement for Prop 36 parolees, but other parolee cases are reviewed for history and a recommendation is made to the unit supervisor for final determination.

Ms. Cariveau questioned whether Prop 36 parolees could instead be referred to PSN; members clarified that they are not eligible for both and the decision is not made at the local level by an agent of record, but rather by the Board of Prison Terms. Mr. Armstrong added that until a parolee is ineligible, they use Prop 36, which is a majority of their program referrals.
- D. Mr. Klemencic asked that the monthly reports be sent to him until further notice.
- E. Mr. Klemencic reported that the proposed legislation calling for a 5¢ tax per drink had been dropped. A new proposal, AB 1019, introduces a 10¢ per drink tax.
- F. Mr. Klemencic indicated that success stories are being posted on the PSN website, and a letter will be forthcoming soliciting stories from providers. Mr. Willis reported WestCare had five stories so far.
- G. Mr. Jackson provided a brief overview of his southern California responsibilities. He has found referrals a problem throughout his area. Part of the problem is that PSN beds are cheaper than most other funding sources. Mr. Klemencic added that rates paid in other programs are higher. Ms. Alvarez indicated we end up losing providers, since they make more money not contracting with the county, for the same service.

PSN funding has remained flat for a number of years. Mr. Klemencic suggested perhaps less beds could be offered at a higher rate; Ms. Alvarez responded that she could not pay one provider a different rate than another for the same service.

5. **State CDCR Issues:** Not present.
6. **Kern County Parole Issues:** Mr. Armstrong did not have additional report items.
7. **Provider Issues:**
 - A. WestCare: Mr. Frye reported that although they are under-utilizing their residential bed slots, they are doing very well in Level 3 placements, and questioned whether funding could be shifted to Level 3. Ms. Alvarez asked that Mr. Frye e-mail her the request so she could investigate and then meet with WestCare.

NOTE: Ms. Alvarez met with WestCare to confirm there are no contractual restrictions to increase Level 3 services.
 - B. Members discussed the fact of waiting lists. Ms. Alvarez indicated that staff work closely with providers to track and move clients as appropriate.
 - C. Members discussed the large number of correctional facilities (7) in close proximity to Bakersfield. If a large number of parolees are given early release, as has been suggested, it would mean an influx of parolees needing services.
 - D. College Community Services: Ms. Cariveau reported on the interim services they have implemented in order to maintain contact with clients while they are on the waiting list. This does not affect PSN clients, as they are seen immediately.
 - E. WestCare: Mr. Fry reported on services to parolees and their families that have been made available through Family Strengthening grants provided by Mental Health. The services were rolled out at their residential program. Some clients have mandatory participation as part of family reunification, and all clients are pre-cleared regarding visitation or other restrictions prior to participation, in order to maintain security for family members. Upcoming events include the creation of a “Kiddie Korner” at their facility, bowling night, a miniature golf outing, and anger management classes. Mr. Klemencic asked that information on the activities be submitted to be posted on the PSN website.
 - F. Mental Health Gate Team: Ms. Skaggs and Ms. Elizondo had no additional issues.
8. **Mental Health Issues:** No additional report items.
9. Next meeting **July 8, 2009**, at Kern County Mental Health Administration.

LA:cc

Attachments to original minutes:
None